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Connell goal was so vital

THE team who did as much as anyone to help Wycombe Wanderers clinch the Rothmans Isthmian League title was Hendon, last year's champions. For it was Hendon who managed to overcome the Blues' greatest challengers Bishops Stortford 1-0 at Claremont Road last Thursday.

The vital winner in that game came from Roger Connell, but Hendon left it late to do Wycombe a good turn. It wasn't until the 87th minute that Connell rose above the defence to head home a fine winner after Martin Smith had conceded a free kick on the edge of the Stortford penalty area.

In a match dominated by two excellent defences, Stortford produced only one real threat to Hendon 'keeper John Swannell, who pulled off a great save from Dave Lawrence. Hendon's captain Rod Haider hit the upright in the second half before Connell snatched the decisive winner.

The teams for that match were:

HENDON: J. Swannell; D. Pools, G. Hand, P. Deadman, A. Phillips, R. Haider, J. Wilson, R. Connell, J. Baker, K. Somers, J. Devlin, sub J. Quayle.

BISHOPS STORTFORD: T. Moore, A. Gibson, R. Coombes, D. Lawrence, J. Still, J. Payne, P. Leakey, J. Dear, A. Bass, M. Smith, D. Mitchell, sub P. Scott.